

IN THE CLAIMS:

All pending claims are set forth below. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (new).

Please AMEND claims 1, 12-15 and ADD new claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission line monitoring apparatus monitoring faults occurring in a transmission line and in apparatus which are connected to the transmission line, said transmission line monitoring apparatus comprising:

 a first optical coupling unit which couples a down data signal of a first wavelength and an examination signal of a second wavelength so as to transmit a first coupled signal to a lower apparatus;

 a first optical dividing unit to demultiplex which receives said first coupled signal from said optical coupling unit so as to divide and split said first coupled signal into said down data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength;

 a second optical coupling unit which couples an up data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal from said first optical dividing unit so as to transmit a second coupled signal toward a host apparatus;

 a second optical dividing unit to demultiplex which receives said second coupled signal from said second optical coupling unit so as to divide and split said second coupled signal into said up data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength; and

 a monitoring unit which monitors a fault and a location of said fault by using said examination signal with the second wavelength.

2. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first optical coupling unit, said first optical dividing unit, said second optical coupling unit, and said second optical dividing unit are formed of passive elements.

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3. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a first examination signal generator which generates said examination signal with the second wavelength.

4. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said monitoring unit includes:

an alarm information output unit which monitors a signal level of said examination signal with the second wavelength and, if said signal level is lower than a predetermined signal level, then outputs alarm information; and

an alarm information displaying/transferring unit which, when said alarm information is outputted, displays said alarm information and insert said alarm information into said up data signal to be transmitted to said host apparatus.

5. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a second examination signal generator which divides an input down data signal into two signals, one signal being converted into said down data signal with the first wavelength, the other signal being converted into said examination signal with the second wavelength.

6. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said monitoring unit includes:

an error information output unit which outputs synchronous error information and data signal error information based on said examination signal with the second wavelength; and

an error information displaying/transferring unit which, when said synchronous error information and said data signal error information are outputted, displays said error information and inserts said error information into said up data signal to be transmitted to said host apparatus.

7. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a first control unit which controls a start and stop of said first examination signal generator.

8. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a second control unit which controls start and stop of said alarm information output unit and start and stop of said alarm information display/transferring unit.

9. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a timer for managing said first control unit at given intervals.

10. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a command detecting unit which detects a command signal included in said down data signal so as to manage said first control unit based on said command signal.

11. (ORIGINAL) The transmission line monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a command detecting unit which detects a command signal included in said down data signal so as to manage said first control unit based on said command signal.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission line monitoring method monitoring faults occurring in a transmission line and in apparatus connected to the transmission line, said transmission line monitoring method comprising:

coupling a down data signal with a first wavelength and an examination signal with a second wavelength so as to transmit a first coupled signal to a lower apparatus;

demultiplexing receiving said first coupled signal and dividing said first coupled signal into said down data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength;

coupling an up data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength so as to transmit a second coupled signal towards a host apparatus;

demultiplexing receiving said second coupled signal and dividing said second coupled signal into said up data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength; and

monitoring a fault and a location of said fault by using said examination signal with the second wavelength.

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13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission line monitoring method monitoring faults occurring in a transmission line and in apparatus connected to the transmission line, said transmission line monitoring method comprising:

generating an examination signal having a second wavelength from a data signal having a first wavelength;

coupling the data signal with the examination signal so as to transmit a first coupled signal from a host apparatus to a lower apparatus;

dividing and separating the first coupled signal into the data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength at the lower apparatus;

coupling the data signal with the first wavelength and the examination signal with the second wavelength so as to transmit a second coupled signal from the lower apparatus to the host apparatus;

dividing and separating said second coupled signal into the data signal with the first wavelength and the examination signal with the second wavelength at the host apparatus; and

monitoring a fault and a location of the fault by using the examination signal with the second wavelength generated from the data signal having the first wavelength.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission line monitoring method monitoring faults occurring in a transmission line and in apparatus connected to the transmission line, comprising:

controlling generation of an examination signal having a second wavelength and if the examination signal is generated;—then

coupling a down data signal with a first wavelength to the examination signal with the second wavelength so as to transmit a first coupled signal to a lower apparatus;

dividing separating the first coupled signal into said down data signal with the first wavelength and the examination signal with the second wavelength;

coupling an up data signal with the first wavelength and the examination signal with the second wavelength so as to transmit a second coupled signal to a host apparatus;

dividing separating the second coupled signal into said up data signal with the first wavelength and said examination signal with the second wavelength; and

monitoring a fault and a location of said fault by using the examination signal with the second wavelength.

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15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission line monitoring method monitoring faults occurring in a transmission line and in apparatus connected to the transmission line, said transmission line monitoring method comprising:

transmitting a first coupled signal that includes a down data signal having a first wavelength and an examination signal having a second wavelength from a host apparatus to a lower apparatus;

transmitting a second coupled signal that includes an up data signal with the first wavelength and the examination signal with the second wavelength from the lower apparatus to the host apparatus; and

demultiplexing the first and the second coupled signals so as to split said first and second coupled signals; and

monitoring a fault and a location of said fault by using the examination signal with the second wavelength.

16. (NEW) A method for monitoring fault occurring in a transmission line and in an apparatus connected to the transmission line, comprising:

sending a coupled signal from a source location over a transmission line where the coupled signal includes a signal having a first wavelength and an examination signal having a second wavelength;

demultiplexing the coupled signal at a second location to divide and split the signal having the first wavelength from the examination signal having the second wavelength;

returning the signal having the second wavelength to the source location over a second transmission line; and

monitoring a fault and a location of said fault using the returned signal having the second wavelength.